United Nations A/56/856–S/2002/231

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2002
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 48
Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 28 February 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Guinea, Liberia, Morocco and Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the joint communiqué adopted following the summit meeting of the heads of State of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone which took place in Rabat, Morocco, on 27 February 2002 (see annex).

The three heads of State agreed to maintain regular contacts among themselves and to convene a follow-up summit meeting in Rabat.

We should be grateful if you would have this communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 48, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François Lonseny **Fall**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Guinea to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Lami **Kawah**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Liberia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mohamed **Bennouna**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M'baba **Kamara**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Sierra Leone to the United Nations

02-27312 (E) 080302 080302

Annex to the letter dated 28 February 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Guinea, Liberia, Morocco and Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Joint communiqué

1. On the invitation of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, the Leaders of the Mano River Union States of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia met in the Moroccan Capital of Rabat on Wednesday, 27 February 2002, to address matters of mutual interest to Member States.

2. His Majesty The King hosted the Summit. Their Excellencies General Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Dahkpanah Dr. Charles Ghankay Taylor, President of the Republic of Liberia participated in the deliberations.

3. The Summit was pursuant to the recommendations made by the Foreign Ministers of the Mano River Union and the Joint Security Committee in a series of meetings held in their respective Capitals in August and September of 2001.

4. Endorsing the recommendations of those meetings, the three heads of State reiterated their willingness to restore a climate of peace and security in the Mano River Union in accordance with the aspirations of their peoples.

5. They further:

(i) Approved the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Security Committee meeting on the reactivation of the Fifteenth Protocol on Defence and Security, held in Freetown, on 22 and 23 August 2001, and in Conakry, from 8 to 10 September 2001;

(ii) Directed the Joint Security Committee (JSC) to implement the recommendations contained in the report, and further directed the JSC to meet in Freetown on 4th of March 2002, to commence the implementation of the process. The Joint Security Committee will submit a progress report to the Foreign Ministers no later than 28 March 2002.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall meet in Rabat, one week after the submission of the progress report for the purpose of reviewing the report and preparing for the next Summit of Heads of State.

(iii) Reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to strictly adhere to the Non-Aggression and the Security Cooperation Treaty of 1986, entered into by the Governments of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia;

(iv) Appealed to the international community to provide assistance for the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Security Committee;

(v) Further reaffirmed their support for the pursuit of genuine national reconciliation throughout the Mano River Union Subregion, and, in this respect, the three heads of State welcomed the reconciliation efforts under way in Liberia and encouraged all parties to lend their full cooperation to these efforts;

(vi) They outrightly condemned all dissident activities in the Subregion and agreed to work collectively to curb the activities of armed groups operating in the Subregion in general, and the Mano River Union in particular;

(vii) Agreed to avoid the use of force in settling disputes, bearing in mind the historic links that bind their peoples;

(viii) Deplored the escalating conflict in the Sister State of Liberia and the humanitarian tragedies occurring as a result of this conflict;

(ix) Expressed their readiness to make the Mano River Union an organization capable of promoting socio-economic development in the subregion;

(x) Welcomed the progress made in the political situation in Sierra Leone, which culminated in the official declaration of the end of the decade-long rebel war on 18 January 2002;

(xi) Expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Guinea and the international community for the humanitarian assistance they have provided to refugees and requested additional support to victims of the crisis in Liberia particularly the internally displaced persons;

(xii) Expressed their appreciation and encouraged the contribution of the Mano River Women Peace Network, Civil Society Movement and Inter-faith groups;

(xiii) Expressed their satisfaction over the cordial and friendly atmosphere under which they held their deliberations.

6. Further expressed their profound gratitude to their friend and brother, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Government and People of Morocco for the warm African hospitality extended to them during their stay.

7. His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his part, thanked the heads of State of the Mano River Union for the honour accorded him and the confidence reposed in his person, the Government and the People of Morocco in accepting his invitation.

8. His Majesty solemnly took note of the political will and commitment of the three heads of State of the Mano River Union to work for the restoration of peace in their Subregion and expressed his willingness and the support of the Kingdom of Morocco for the achievement of this goal.

9. As a confidence-building measure, the heads of State agreed to maintain regular contacts and to hold regular meetings among themselves.

10. Finally, the three heads of State agreed to convene a follow-up summit meeting in Rabat.

Done in Rabat, 27 February 2002.

In French and English languages, both texts being equally authentic:

Attested by
His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

For the Republic of Guinea
General Lansana Conte

For the Republic of Sierra Leone
Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah

For the Republic of Liberia
Dahkpanah Dr. Charles Ghankay Taylor